

C.O.C.A. TIMES

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COIN OPERATED COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION



Skill Pool 1963 Williams



Gigi 1963 Gottlieb



Kings & Queens 1965 Gottlieb



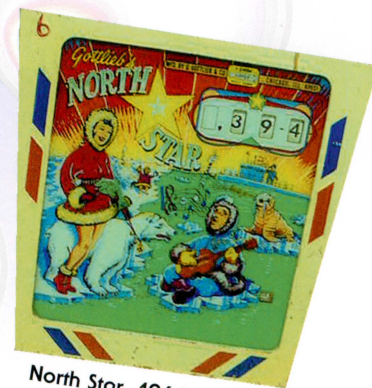
Subway 1966 Gottlieb



Olympics 1962 Gottlieb

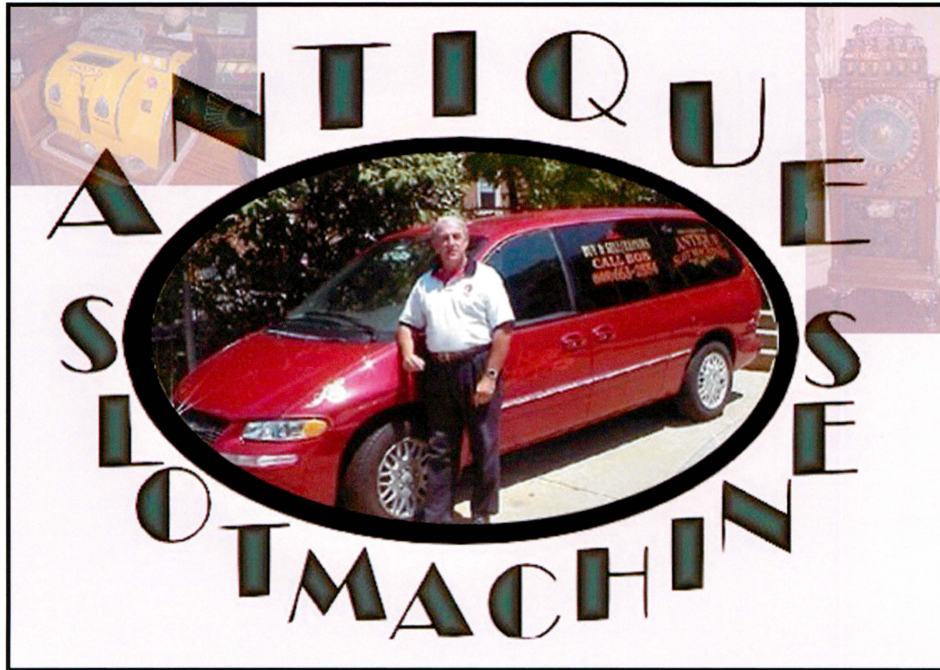


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Message from Our President

The opportunity of serving the C.O.C.A. Club as President is winding down. I enjoyed working with and meeting the great members of this super organization. I only hope the new president will enjoy it as much as I have.

At our November meeting, we will be electing a new slate of officers. If you would like to run, please e-mail or call me and I will explain to you, all the details of the job you are interested in. You must be present, in Chicago, at the meeting to vote. Currently Jim Grimwade and Alex Warshaw have been nominated for the office of President. We are currently looking for nominations for Vice-President and Secretary, and Dan Davids has been nominated for Treasurer. Let's

make the elections interesting, and have more running for these offices. If you don't like what the club is doing, here is your chance to make changes.....

I want to personally thank all those who have made my job a lot easier. I have had great support from those who write articles on a regular basis and a big special thank you to Randy and Sue Razzoog who are the real brains behind the C.O.C.A. magazine....enjoy your summer and see you in November.

President
Paul Hindin



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Deadline for Next Issue:

February 1, 2004

FATE IS THE HUNTER

by John Peterson

Do you believe in fate? I don't mean the type of pre-destiny where everything is scripted from Day One and you're essentially just along for the ride. I'm thinking more along the lines of String Theory where there are multiple realities extant at the same time and you always have choices to make, the consequences of which will be totally different. All the possibilities exist at the same time but you can never know the end result at the time the choice is made. Think of it as being in an airport where there are multiple gates with airplanes simultaneously leaving for different unknown cities. You can only board one aircraft and the trip will lead to a completely unique destination, the consequences of which you cannot foresee. This is how my life unfolds. Let me explain.

Remember, if you will, our last adventure. ("Domino and the Devils", COCA Times, July 2003.) That article was the description of my purchase and restoration of "Domino, Model 4," a ball-catching game by the London Company Handin-Ni, Ltd. In the story I mentioned that soon after the purchase of "Domino," I had the opportunity to purchase another machine by the same firm. The name



PHOTO A

of this second game was "Multiball" (See photo A.) It was manufactured around the time of "Domino, Model 4," about 1913. When this second game came up for sale on Ebay, I about dropped what's left of my teeth. These games are quite rare in their native England and yet, within the space of one month, two of them come up for sale in the United States. What are the odds of this happening? I can go months without seeing a single unique British game offered for sale and within this short period of time there are two rare games by the same obscure English company. Fate? I'm not sure, but as unusual as that was, it didn't hold a candle to what followed next.

I immediately emailed the seller and we started talking about a possible deal for my purchase of the game. I would like to think that I am a very persuasive fellow. After all, I did manage to talk Dearly Beloved, the jewel of the South into marrying me. Of course, if I were totally honest I would be forced to admit I caught her in a moment of weakness and as I recall, alcohol was involved. Truth be told, I'm just an average Joe with what has been described to me as an "over-developed sense of humor." During the negotiations to purchase "Multiball," the seller mentioned that he and his partner had acquired some other British games in addition to the one we were haggling over. As part of my side of the "deal," I offered to fly out to their place and appraise their inventory for them, free of charge. Being an airline pilot, I have the ability to travel for reduced prices and since they lived in the Los Angeles area, I could easily schedule a working trip with an overnight close by. This would allow me to pick up "Multiball" and appraise their games at the same time. They graciously accepted my offer.

This is probably a good time to talk a little about British games. I will admit, I am completely bonkers over them. It's not that I don't like the American games of the same vintage, it's just that I like the English games better. Part of the appeal for me is the appearance of the games; I truly love a combination of wood and hardware as opposed to the all-metallic composition of their American counter-parts. When I see a vintage British game with that age darkened oak wood and brass hardware with a beautiful patina, it makes my heart sing! Then there is the play. We Americans are addicted to games of chance. I prefer games of skill, even those where the skill factor is nebulous at best. When I lose that big British penny, I like to think that it was my failure, not Lady Luck's fortune at my expense.

The most basic of the British games is the "allwin." The name is a little misleading since on most of

these games, all the holes are not winning holes. Even so, that is the generic name and all Brits know the genre. At its simplest, the allwin is similar to our game called "Zoom" by Groetchen. You deposit a coin and receive one ball bearing in return. There is a spring-loaded hammer which you pull back to shoot the ball around a circular vertical track. When the ball slows, it drops into one of a series of holes, normally on a horizontal shelf. The holes are marked "win" and "lose." If you "win," you turn a knob and get a coin returned as well as ball for a second chance. For all your effort, you are winning one coin (usually a penny) at a time. There are many variations on the theme. You can win several coins at a time or "sweets" like rolls of candy mints. Some of the allwins dispense cigarettes, tokens and about anything else that you can think of which could be vended from a coin-operated machine. These games originated at the turn of the century and continued into the 1960's. The strict anti-gambling laws in Britain prohibited any games of chance so these "amusement devices" were pretty tame by American standards, at least in terms of the payout.

Allwins come in many sizes and formats. There will always be a "backflash" which is the backing on the vertical playfield. The earliest games were fabric-backed, usually made of velvet. Once the technology of plastic entered the commerce of gambling, the backflashes took on a much more thematic appearance. Many of the later backflashes had a distinctive picture that tied into the name of the game. During the war, themes trended toward patriotism and combat. In gentler times, they showcased anything you can imagine, from horse races to fairs to sporting events to outer space. The intention was to create an illusion of easy winning, beckoning the young and the old to try their skill as well as their pocket change. In many ways, the themes of the allwins were a reflection of Society's preoccupations at the time. By attempting to capture the common man's coins, they reflected his dreams.

As an aside, one of the unfortunate realities is the deleterious effect that ultra-violet rays over time

have had on these plastic backflashes, particularly on those made in the 1950's and 1960's. It is common to find that the plastic scenes which are so enchanting have cracked and buckled. There is no real remedy to this malady as the painted surface will flake with most efforts to straighten the playfield. This defect is better embraced as a "badge of authenticity." In most cases, the troubled spots are in non-essential areas and do not affect the play of the game.

Back to the story. You're undoubtedly asking yourself, why would anyone want me to come over for appraisal duty when they could just list the item on Ebay and sell it? The same thought occurred to me when I started the negotiations for "Multiball." As the discussion developed, the answer became readily apparent. These gentlemen did not have a few orphan games which had floated over from England, they had the whole damn British Armada: 60 plus English machines with games stretching from 1913 though the 1960's. I was beside myself. In addition to picking up my latest love, I would get to be a kid in the candy store and see more live British games in one place than I had seen total to date! I could hardly wait!

The subject matter of coin-operated machines is wide and varied. One of the better ways to enrich your knowledge of the field is through the use of well-researched books. We Americans have a terrific advantage over our European contemporaries in this regard through the superior quantity and quality of our reference materials. We've lost several giants lately: Dick Bueschel and Bill Enes come to mind. As much as they are missed, eventually new authors will emerge to continue our collective education. My collecting passion runs to the European games with a special weakness for the British machines. In addition to collecting these games, I am always seeking out reference material and books on the subject. Other than a handful of books (and several of them in their native German and French,) there is a pitiful dearth of information on these wonderful foreign games. Why this should be is a mystery to me. One idea I have is that the

British collecting field is just getting under way in a serious manner for these allwins. British gaming laws changed in the mid-60's to align their rules more with the American trade, allowing games of pure chance with large payouts. These new games chased away the allwins, which then became regarded as quaint but uninteresting leftovers from another era. It's only been fairly recently that the public has rekindled an interest in these games of their youth. Even so, this theory does not adequately explain why there are not more good reference books about the British games. Because of this void, identifying and valuing British games is part science, part art. I've been following British games for about ten years now and have acquired a bit of knowledge along the way. I also have a network of British friends who are willing to help me out with identification and valuation. Even so, I knew I would have my work cut out for me when I reported for appraisal duty in Los Angeles.

My airline is a major carrier. We have a lot of overnights in Los Angeles. It's not that simple, though. I could just fly out to Los Angeles, pick up the game and ship it back to my hometown. The problem with this is that I run the risk that the game would be damaged in transit. I know this all too well, having suffered such indignity in the past. I much prefer to pick up the game during the course of one of my trips so that I can bring the game home in the cockpit with me, safe and sound. The complicating factor is that I have to find a trip that has an overnight long enough for me to rent a car and drive over to the seller's house. Additionally, the hours have to be right. I can't show up at midnight now, can I? And if that weren't enough to worry about, I have to have the next leg of the trip be from Los Angeles back to my hometown of Minneapolis so that I can drop the machine off as opposed to dragging it around for several days before I finally get off my trip. It took several months before I was able to line up that special trip.

It was a beautiful afternoon in December as I drove in rush hour traffic toward the outskirts of Los Angeles. I arrived on time and was met by the sell-

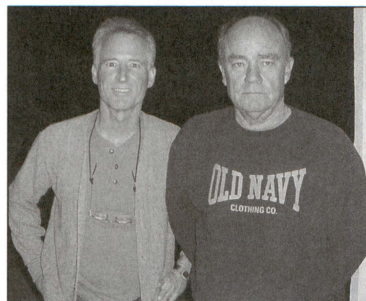


PHOTO B

ers, Jim Schafer and Glenn Brown (See photo B.) They ushered me out to the back patio and we got to know each other over a "soda." I had brought my major reference materials with me and after a short period we headed for the machines. We rounded the corner on the back of Glenn's house and there, stacked two high and running to depth of the house, were approximately 50 allwins. They



PHOTO C

were covered with a plastic tarp and sitting on wood rails to keep them off the ground (See photo C.) Additionally, there was a tent set up in the back yard with many more games. I was feeling faint. How did two guys amass such a collection of British gold?

As it turns out, Jim Schafer is an active antique dealer with a store in Southern California. For you serious collectors of slot machines, Jim's name should ring a bell. He was the man who single-handedly brought the second generation of Frank Polk western slot machine figures to market in the 1980's (See "Loose Change", December 1985, Jim's on the cover!) One afternoon last year, an elderly gentleman walked into Jim's store with three doubled-side scrapbook pages filled with pictures of games, dozens of them! He asked Jim if he was interested in them. You bet Jim was interested! Jim and his partner Glenn headed out to this man's business and had a look at the stash. The man had machines everywhere, from his warehouse to a railroad car next to his warehouse. The games had been in storage since the early 1970's and the majority of them were English. Most of the games were of the allwin variety but there were also gambling clocks, a single-wheel roulette and an iron fortune teller. So, what gives?

As late as the early 1970's, there was a discount store chain in California called "Akron." From what I can gather, they were similar to the Wal-Mart of today. In addition to all the other stuff that Akron carried, they imported and sold British coin-operated games, particularly during the Christmas season. In 1973, Akron went bankrupt and all their stock was sold. The gentleman who approached Jim in his antique store in 2002 was the enterprising fellow who, in 1973, went to the local Akron stores and bought up all their British games. He squirreled them away for the next 29 years. Jim and Glenn purchased the lot from the fellow and I was the collector who purchased the first game they listed on Ebay, the Handan-Ni game "Multiball."

I will be totally honest with you. I did not go to Glenn's house intending to purchase this wonderful hoard of games. For one thing, I was sure the price would be outside my present ability. Secondly, I was most happy just to be getting "Multiball." Third, my wife would divorce me. Last but not least, I don't have that kind of vision. I'm much more a "micro" as opposed to a "macro" kind of guy. Imagine my surprise when, after a delicious dinner prepared by Glenn's wife, Leslie, Jim said to me, "Why don't you make us an offer for the lot?" I had written an appraisal, game by game but had not tallied the numbers. I knew that it would be too high. Sensing my hesitation, Jim added, "If you could swing 50% of your appraisal, there would be room for all of us to make money." Suddenly, the numbers began dancing in my head. I said that I would seriously think about it and get back to them within the week.

I think I flew back to Minneapolis from Los Angeles the next morning but I'm not sure; I may have floated. The vision of all these British games kept swimming in front of my eyes like a candy carousel that would not go away. I knew that the offer presented to me was an honest "once in a lifetime" opportunity. Could I actually do this? Doesn't every red-blooded collector live for this type of chance? Doesn't the size of the challenge inspire even greater deeds? Why all the questions, Professor?

The class knows the common answer: YES! To her credit, my wife gave approval to the deal with a reasonable "I just don't want to see any of them in the house" type of comment. (Silly Girl!) The adrenaline was really flowing now. It had rapidly transitioned from "Can it happen?" to "Make it happen!" I called Glenn and sealed the deal. It took me several months to arrange the time off together with a decent weather forecast for the four-day drive from Los Angeles to Minnesota. That time came in February of this year.

On a bright Monday morning, I flew into LAX International, arriving at 9 AM. My truck rental reservation was for 10 AM and I made it to the Ryder garage 10 minutes early. I was at Glenn's house by 10:45 AM. I thought I would be on the road headed home by Noon. After all, one would think that the process of loading 56 wall-hanging games into a 10' rental truck would be a piece of cake, wouldn't one? No, only if that person is overly optimistic like I usually am. Glenn had previously shrink-wrapped about a third of the games. It took us almost three hours to wrap and load those and the remaining games. Glenn's wife Leslie had prepared lunch for us and I wasn't about to miss one of Leslie's delicious invitations. I was finally on the



PHOTO D

road by 3 PM. (See photo D, Glenn, Leslie and Oreo plus the "treasure.") I made it to Las Vegas (or as we aircrew call it, "Lost Wages") the first night. My plan was to follow I-15

Northeast to the juncture of I-15/I-70 where I would turn eastward over the Rockies on I-70. I would join I-76 at Denver and then connect with I-35 north to Minneapolis. It looked great on paper and I had the blessing of MapQuest. The one wild card was the weather.

I'm very sensitive to weather. As an airline pilot, the vast majority of my "combat" stories center

around bad weather and the damage it has done to my sense of well-being, not to mention my aircraft. For that reason, I pay close attention to present and forecast weather. On this trip, my forecast consisted of nightly attention to the Weather Channel and CNN. Neither one predicted the fast moving front that caught up with me just before my planned Eastbound turn onto I-70. As I was driving northward on I-15, I could see the peaks of the Rockies on my right begin to disappear in snow clouds. This was not a good sign. I stopped at a rest stop and talked with a trucker who was intending to take my same route. I figured he would have the latest weather information from his dispatcher. His comment offered no reassurance. He said he was going, no matter what. If they had the "chain restrictions" in place, he would just sit it out at the "hold" point until they lifted the restrictions. Chain restrictions? I'm driving a 10' rental truck and I don't have no stinkin' chains. Moreover, I do not have the luxury of time to wait out the storm if the interstate is closed to all but the Humvee crowd. I have to be back at work two days after my planned arrival home. I made a command decision and pressed on northward toward Salt Lake and the fickle I-80.

I-80 can be a truly treacherous drive during the winter when the wind whips the snow into impenetrable drifts and the hills go from dry to ice with no warning. I had no knowledge of the weather up ahead; I was just trying to outrun the storm to my Southeast. They say that Fate smiles upon children and drunks. I do not drink and drive so I'll claim the child's exemption. With the exception of one very nasty roll-over accident that I passed just outside Rock Springs, Wyoming, it was a beautiful drive. In fact, the view coming out of Salt Lake was so stunning that I had to turn off the radio and focus all my attention to the wonders outside the window. If you have not traveled the mountain passes of Utah and the high chaparrals of Wyoming, you have a treat yet in store. I made good time and was even able to hunt up a semi-lost second cousin in Rawlins, Wyoming for a quick reunion. It was a great trip. Given that I was driving the Mother lode home made it just that much better. I pulled into my

driveway at 9 PM, the night of the fourth day, just as planned. I was tired and I smelled like weeks-old cigarettes, compliments of the previous renters of my truck. In addition, I was catching a terrific cold. I could not have been happier than if I had won the lottery.

The machines are now divided between my workroom and a rental storage unit close to my house. I work on the games as I find time and the mood hits me. Whenever I go to the storage unit and open the door, the immensity of my good fortune strikes me and I break into a wide grin. Most of the games are missing a small part or two, compliments of the anti-gambling laws in existence at the time during the early 1970's in California. It will take some time to get them back into full operating condition, one game at a time. I'm in no rush. I have not sold any of them even though I have had opportunity and several requests. You will appreciate this; they are my children. They have come to me for reasons I cannot fully understand but most certainly appreciate. I must treasure each and every one before I can think of letting them go back into the world on their own.

Do you believe in Fate? Had I not discovered and made the deal for "Domino, Model 4," I would not have been in a position to recognize the significance of "Multiball" when it appeared for sale. Without "Multiball," I never would have had the opportunity to discover and purchase The Glenn Collection. Do I believe in Fate? Let me answer the question this way: If Fate is the hunter, I am a sitting duck. "Quack! Quack!"

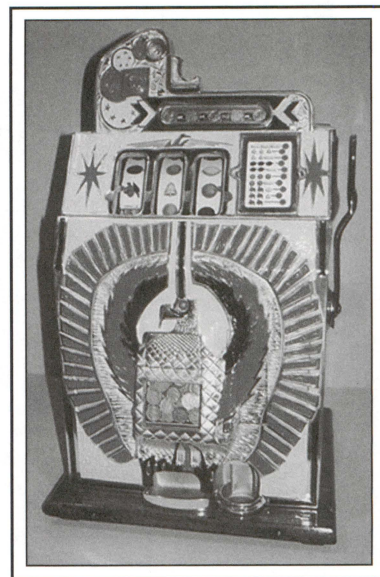
The End

Post Script: As always, when not ducking his family responsibilities, John can be found at home. He always delights hearing from other collectors of these fabulous British and European games. You can reach him at www.jp4@charter.net or (952) 891-2312. Next time, we'll explore the fascinating subject of British fortune tellers, unless Fate has other ideas in mind!

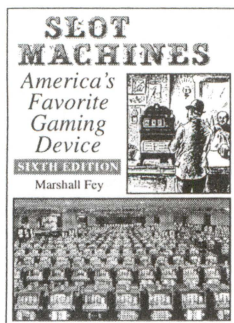
Do You Know What Machine This Is???

By Johnny Duckworth

Take a close look at the machine in the picture and see if you can figure out what you are looking at. If you are thinking it is a Mill's War Eagle don't feel bad, because most people do at first glance. Look a little closer, and you will see it is actually a Rock-Ola Eagle Jackpot. This machine started its life in the Mill's factory just like the Mill's War Eagle, but it took another path down the road. In the early thirties, Rock-Ola bought up the less popular 'Silent F.O.K.' machines and revamped them to their own Eagle Jackpots. They cut the front of the cabinets down and made a new front casting with the eagle in it. The eagle on the Mill's War Eagle runs clear up into the top casting, and the award card even cuts into the right wing of the eagle. That is not the case with the Rock-Ola as it spans the whole lower casting. If you look close at the Rock-Ola, you can see the original F.O.K. top casting still on it. The Rock-Ola Eagle jackpot in this picture even has the matching cover over the reserve jackpot hiding it underneath. These were put on the later machines for a reason. When the jackpot paid out, the reserve jackpot had to drop on the next play. This



left the reserve jackpot empty and could cause some players to pass up the machine as they felt it would be some time before it would hit again. I am always amazed at how well the manufacturers could copy each other's machines, through revamping. Rock-Ola not only used Mill's machine but they even copied it to Mill's current model they were selling. I can't imagine the frustration between all the manufacturers. There was no legal protection through patents because the U.S. Patent Office would not grant patents for an entire gambling device, but that's another story entirely. "The Rock-Ola Eagle jackpot is considered the ultimate 'War Eagle' collectible," according to Dick Bueschel in his book, *Illustrated Price Guide to 100 Most Collectible ---Slot Machines* (Volume 3, page 86). Keep your eye open next time you look at a War Eagle. You may get lucky and spot one of these rare machines.



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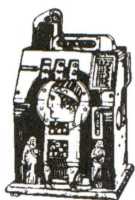
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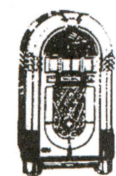
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P I N S T O R Y

by Tom and Penny Taylor

It all started because my older brother didn't want to baby-sit me. Growing up in Milwaukee in the early 60's, pinball was second nature. With a bar on every corner and a bowling alley on every other corner, life was good. He was 16 and I was 6. The last thing my brother wanted was little me tagging along. The solution was simple: we would go to the neighborhood bowling alley, he would give me a handful of dimes, ditch me in the game room and bowl with his friends. There I was, perched on a bar stool with my arms outstretched as far as they would go to reach the flipper buttons, playing pinball for hours. It was destiny that my Mom named me Tommy.

For the next 12 years, my purpose in life was to find the game room at every lodge, park or campsite where the family vacationed. It is amazing how many of those places and games I remember. Then it was off to college, where my minor was pinball. It didn't help land my first job, but it sure gave me a well-rounded education. Shortly after that it was wedding bells and the thought of never playing pinball again. Fortunately, the resort where we honeymooned had a game room, and despite a childhood of being told that "skill at pinball is a sign of a mis-spent youth," Penny became hooked on the silver ball. A brand new Williams Firepower was my accomplice (one of which now resides in our living room). At last, there was hope, and three months later I answered an ad in the paper and became the proud owner of a non-working Gottlieb Card Trix machine. Never mind that the \$140 I paid for the

machine was for groceries, gas and a haircut. I was willing to go hungry, walk more and look a little shaggy to finally have a machine.

An artist by nature, my wife meticulously cleaned everything on the playfield to a brand-new shine. Meanwhile, I learned to decipher a schematic. It took us three weeks to get the game to work, but it was fun and worth the effort. We still have this game!

In the 20+ years since that first game, we have owned close to 500 machines and currently have about 150. Over that time we have also dabbled in a couple of jukeboxes, slots, trade stimulators and four kids. We have added a number of arcade games to the collection, too. We have tried to obtain an example of every Gottlieb wedgehead produced between 1960 and 1978, and now hope to find the time to restore them all. The annual Pinball Expo in Chicago has been a great source of games and new friends. We have attended all 19 shows and exhibited since 1992. In 2002 we were able to move into a new building and finally bring all the games together in one place (they had been stored at five different locations---friends' and relatives' homes, storage sheds and a rented basement). We will probably spend the next 10 years restoring them all, but I can't think of a better way to enjoy this great coin-op hobby. I like to tell people that pinball machines are like potato chips: you can't stop with just one! We hope you enjoy the accompanying pictures. We can be reached at thomastaylor@ameritech.net.

PINBALL HISTORY

From its earliest origins, modern pinball has taken a noteworthy course. It probably began with cave men rolling boulders at each other, but we'll never know that for sure. Most historians agree that "bagatelle" (pin table) gained popularity among the elite in the 18th and early 19th centuries. It was a parlor game that involved cue sticks and gauged skill by your ability to hit balls into numbered scoring holes. The concept had an appeal to the masses and soon this game of royalty migrated to the working class, although it was a smaller game and the cue sticks were replaced with a spring-loaded plunger. In the 1870's, an inventor named Montague Redgrave received a patent on a tabletop version of bagatelle. Soon after that, there were literally hundreds of imitators and the popularity of the game grew exponentially. It didn't take long for someone to figure out how to add a coin slot to these games, and pinball was born. Pinball games became commonplace and actually began to fade from their earlier popularity. Then the advent of batteries and electricity added something new to the game, making it more interactive as the achievement of the game objective drew attention to the game and the player through light and sound. The popularity of this form of entertainment helped lift the spirits of a depression weary nation. The 1930's provided many innovations, which have survived through today---the tilt mechanism, bumpers, gates and the ball lift. The first payout pinball machines were also introduced in the 30's to compete with the popularity of slot machines. The major manufacturers all experimented with payouts, but only Bally continued to produce them. The last great innovation of the 30's was the illuminated backglass. This increased the recognition of individual games and gave the designers and artists a greater opportunity to attract new players. Soon, World War II halted

pinball production, as the assembly lines of all of the manufacturers were re-tooled to support the war effort. Obviously, there were no raw materials to build new pinballs, so the entrepreneurial small manufacturers began to produce conversion kits, which basically swapped out the backglasses and playfield plastics. No one knows for sure how many games were "lost" or new games "created" during the war years, but occasionally a previously unknown game shows up that can only be explained as a wartime conversion. When the war ended, the pinball industry re-grouped and for the next 15 years produced some of the greatest games ever made. Many call this woodrail era the golden age of pinball. There was an inevitable shakeout in the industry and only four major players remained (Gottlieb, Williams, Bally and Chicago Coin). The next 20 years produced games with more features and more players and the introduction of the add-a-ball concept to avoid certain states' gambling laws. The idea was that a player's skill extended play rather than relying on chance (match feature). Gottlieb and Williams produced the same game themes under different names to satisfy both the replay and add-a-ball markets. The next era of games was the introduction of solid state technology, which allowed the game designers to incorporate previously unimaginable features, so much so that they even produced wide body games to hold all of the gadgets. Unfortunately, the many choices we have for our entertainment dollars has led to the fading of pinball's popularity. Today there is only one manufacturer left in the United States still producing games (Stern Pinball Inc.), and I hope their success continues and even draws others back into the production of games. There will always be a place for pinball and I will sure try to keep the silver ball alive!

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Baffle Ball 1931 Gottlieb

The first commercially successful pingame. Over 50,000 units sold.



Sunshine Derby 1936 Gottlieb

An example of an early payout game Which Gottlieb later distanced itself from



Humpty Dumpty 1947 Gottlieb

The First Flipper Game.
There were six flippers, Three on each side.
The other manufacturers soon followed.



Major League Baseball 1948 Exhibit

There is a mechanical basepath which moves small balls around the bases.



Spitfire 1954 Williams

Williams Woodrails are gaining popularity and value in recent years.

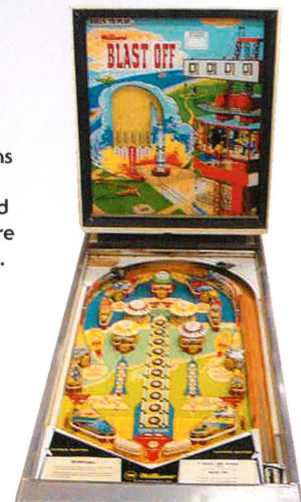
Gold Rush 1966 Bally

The first game with a miniature bagatelle game in the head.



Blast Off 1967 Williams

Williams soon followed with their own miniature bagatelle in the head.





Flipper Clown 1962 Gottlieb



Flipper 1960 Gottlieb

The First Add-a-Ball Game. Early production was still woodrail, which are very rare and desirable.



Flipper Fair 1961 Gottlieb



Flipper Parade 1961 Gottlieb



Slick Chick 1963 Gottlieb

Many collectors consider this the greatest playing game of the 1960's.



Flipper Cowboy 1962 Gottlieb



Hurdy Gurdy 1966 Gottlieb



Majorettes 1964 Gottlieb



Card Trix 1970 Gottlieb

My very first pinball machine



Vagabond 1962 Williams

The first drop target appeared on this game and later became a mainstay for the game designers.



Dimension 1971 Gottlieb

Williams manufactured a reverse wedgehead to fit in between the Gottlieb games.



Melody 1967 Gottlieb



Sing Along 1967 Gottlieb

An example of a game where two versions were made on the right is the add-a-ball, left is replay.

ATTENDANT ON DUTY



Flipper Pool 1965 Gottlieb



Bank A Ball 1965 Gottlieb

NO REFUNDS

An example of a game where two versions were made on the right is the add-a-ball, left is replay.



Batter Up 1970 Gottlieb

Baseball always was a great way to attract new players.



World Series 1972 Gottlieb



Cowpoke 1965 Gottlieb

Backglass animation adds to the collectibility of a game.



Home Run 1971 Gottlieb



Airport 1969 Gottlieb

The first vari-target game. This feature reset after each activation and scored based on the skill of the shot.



Atlantis 1975 Gottlieb



Firepower 1980 Williams

The first electronic multi-ball game.

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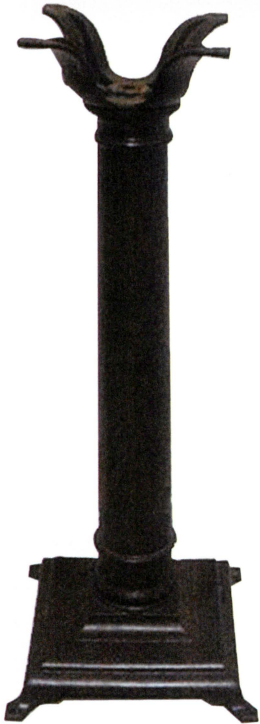
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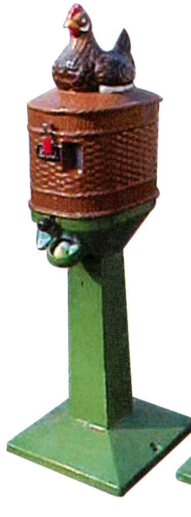
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Circa 1900



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Hercules Grip Tester



Mutoscope Monkey Lifter
Circa Mid 1930's.



Early Iron Stollwerck
Chicken Chocolate Vender
Circa 1896.



Iron "Cat & Mouse"
Chocolate vender
German, Circa 1905.



French Chicken Vender
(Chocolate) - Made by
Leoni in 1897.



Iron German
Chocolate Vender
Circa 1905.



Watling "The New Era"
Circa 1903.



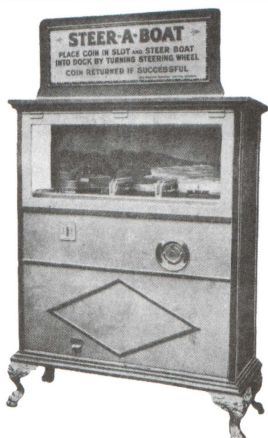
"The Illinois"
Early One Wheel Pay-Out
DN Schall 1899.



French - Circa 1906
Made by Abel Nau
4 Tunes, 1890's Schall Mech.



1890's Clockwork
Spiral Chocolate Vender
Wood Case.



Ahrens Steer-A-Boat
London, 1928

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Ahrens Huntsmans Derby
London, 1929-30

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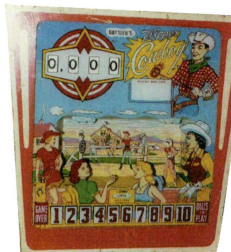
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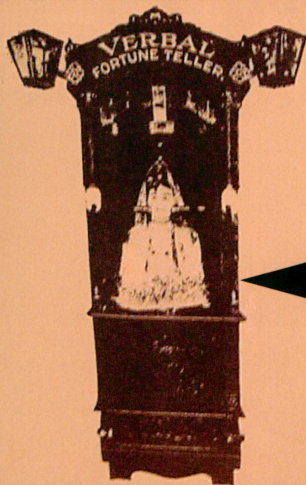
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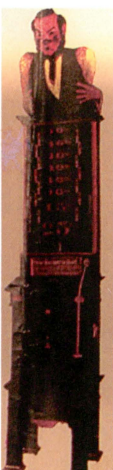
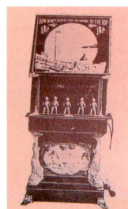


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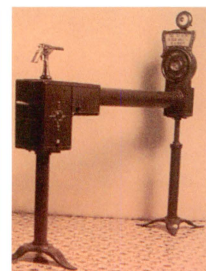
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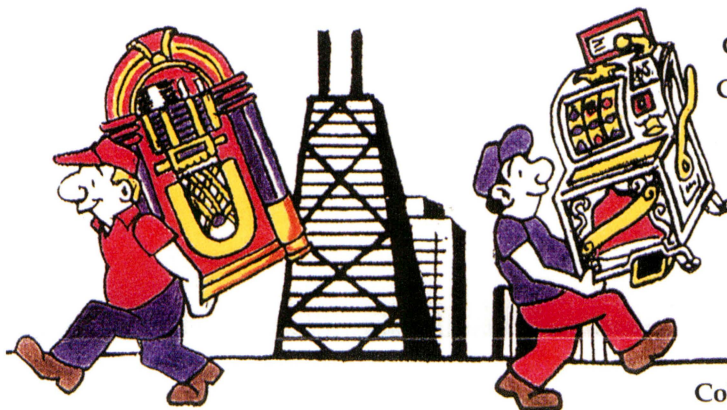
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TOLEDO “BIG HEAD” SCALE ca. 1925

by Jim and Merlyn Collings

Around 1915, Orwell Reeves designed a tall white porcelainized scale, Model #8300, which was nicknamed the “Big Head”. This nickname was given to other scales having a lollipop design from then on.

The Toledo Scale Co. was started in 1901 by Henry Theobald. Early Toledo Scales were used primarily for retail and industrial use. These early scales weighed items from ounces to tons and were noted for their accuracy. They became one of the most accurate weighing mechanisms in the scale industry. Even though the Toledo Scale Co. excelled in it's workmanship, the competition with other established scale companies proved to be difficult.



PHOTO 1

By 1919, Hubert Myers of Toledo, Ohio re-designed the Model #8300 by adding a coin mechanism, calling it Model #8300T (*photo 1*) some of these scales were produced with a weight ticket printing system. Some of these models did not require a coin and were used in banks, schools, men's clubs, hospitals, recruiting centers and race tracks. Because of its accuracy the scale was used to weigh jockeys before the race began. This is why the Model #8300T was also called the “Jockey”.

In 1941, Fred Astaire and Rita Hayworth starred in the movie “You'll Never Get Rich”. One of the highlights in the movie shows Fred Astaire “weighing-in” at the recruiting center on the Toledo “Jockey” Scale. Because he desperately wanted to join the army, before being weighed he put a metal ring under his hat band so he would weigh five pounds more! The Toledo “Jockey” Scale was also used in the recent movie “Sea Biscuit”, when jockey Red Pollard (Tobie McQuire) “weighed-in” at the race track. The “jockey” scale's free weight

mechanism was utilized in both films.

Another version of the Toledo “Big head” Scale was developed in 1919 by Samuel G. Crane. This version was called the Advertising Scale. It had a rotating message drum at the top of the dial face which turned electrically. As the patron weighed himself an illuminated panel would appear, advertising local merchants. This device was somewhat unsuccessful as the patrons probably ignored it. If a fortune telling gimmick had been used instead, the concept would probably have caught on.

In the mid to late 1920's, Halvor D. Hem became the chief engineer for the Toledo Scale Co. He re-designed the coin shutes by putting on a hinged door, allowing the vendors easier access so they could remove slugs and foreign objects. A horizontal coin entry system was also employed. He also designed a lower column that would allow the cash box door to be at the front or back of the column. This permitted greater accessibility for the vendor depending on the scale location. During this time period great emphasis was put on exportation.

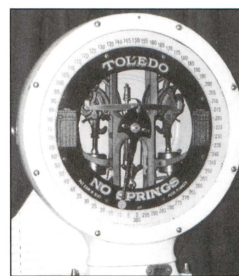


PHOTO 2

The Toledo “Big Head” Scale measures 71" tall and it's head has a diameter of 19-1/2". Behind the plain glass face is a white round metal piece indicating the actual weight numbers. The other metal ring is black and says: Toledo No Springs with scale directions. Put Coin in Slot - Push Plunger (*photo 2*). The open face allows the patron to see the workings of the counter balance mechanism, which Toledo was so proud of. The head also has a brass hook on each side to hang clothing articles on to get a more accurate weight.

After the penny is inserted, the coin plunger is pushed to activate the coin mechanism, which can

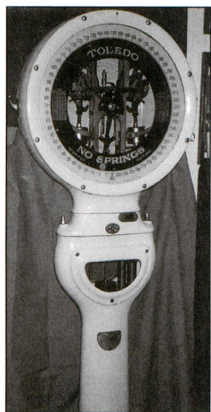


PHOTO 3

be viewed behind the face or in the viewing window directly below the plunger. Inside the viewing window the patron can see the coin chute and moving weights (*photo 3*). This part of the scale looks very nautical. It reminds us of a W.W.II submarine movie starring Clark Gable in "Run Silent, Run Deep", or the Robert Mitchum Movie "Enemy Below".

The heavy porcelain back door on the Toledo "Big Head" Scale is somewhat unique. It is embossed with

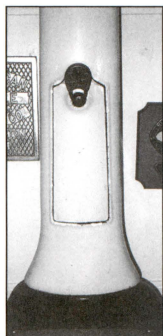


PHOTO 5

the words
Toledo -
Automatic -
No Springs



PHOTO 4

(*photo 4*). The door is attached with 8 nickel-plated bolts; having no lock. The cash door is located on the front column having a padlock device for easy access (*photo 5*) as mentioned earlier, the cash door

could be on the back by rotating the column. The foot plate on the Toledo "Big Head" Scale Model #8300T is a whopping 9-1/2" from the ground (*photo 1*).

Even though the Toledo "big head" Scale had quality construction and tremendous accuracy, it met with fierce competition from Watling, Caille Bros., National Novelty, Mills, O.D. Jennings and other established scale companies. Many of these companies, including Toledo were faced with design and economic problems during and after the depression, when the personal or shorter scales were developed. The Toledo Scale co. however did continue to gain favor and success in the commercial and industrial scale business.

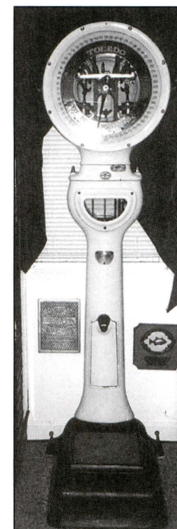
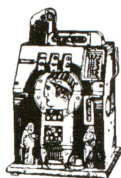


PHOTO 1

You might want to consider owning a Toledo "Big Head" or "Jockey" Scale. It's unique appearance and workmanship is a "must" for any scale collection.

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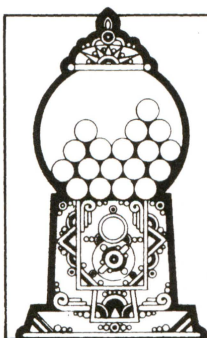
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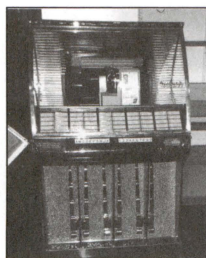
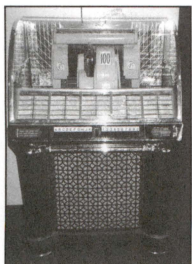
by John Carini

We started out early Saturday on June 14th. On our way to Kansas City, we decided to stop in Des Moines, IA. We had stopped on a previous trip to Colorado, and found many nice antiques and coin-op machines at the Brass Armadillo and Majestic Lyon. This time, we weren't so lucky. We saw some



bit of advertising, but not much in the way of coin-op. Mostly common machines. In one booth at the Majestic Lyon, we found an Advance condom machine for \$150 and a 5 cent Hershey vendor for \$250 (see photo). We moved on.

We stopped at a few more shops as we got closer to Kansas City. Platteville is just North of Kansas City, and had several nice shops. In one, Picker's Antique Mall, there were a number of coin-op machines, but most were over book price. I was able to purchase a 1920's Northwestern match machine (see photo) for \$120. We stopped at a few more shops before going to our hotel.



The next morning, we were off again. We stopped at the Kansas City Brass Armadillo. They had 3 nice restored 1951s Seeburg juke-boxes (see photo), all priced at exactly \$6,999. We found a few stamp machines, parking meters and a unique music box selector (see photo) for \$125. We also stopped at a classic car/antique mall not too far



from the Brass Armadillo. They had a Victor halfback for \$100., and a 1940's 5-cent candy machine (not for sale) - (see photo). Then we moved on to the city of Harrisonville. We stopped at several shops there. One particular shop, Keeper's Antique Mall, had several coin-op machines. I purchased an old Ford with a Vendex globe on it for \$100. They also had a nice strength tester for \$275, a Mouthy Marvin Northwestern on sale for \$350. and a few other common machines (see photos).



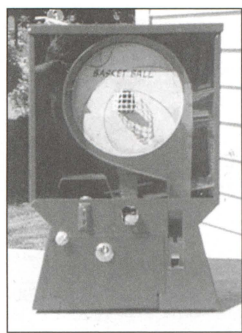
The next morning the family did a little sight seeing. We stopped at the newly remodeled Kansas City Grand Central Station, and visited the Hallmark visitor's center. We also stopped at an attraction called the Treasures of the Steam Ship Arabia. It was fascinating. In the late 1980's, an exploration crew located the Steam Ship Arabia, which had sunk in the Missouri river back in 1856. What was interesting was where they found it - in a cornfield - several miles from the Missouri river. It seems that over the years, the Missouri river had changed course a number of times.

The steamship was buried 45 feet beneath the surface, and the excavation crew hit water at 16 feet. Pumping the water out added to the time and expense of the excavation. It took nearly 6 months to completely excavate the steamship and its contents. (We later found out the water had actually helped preserve the steamship and its contents). But finding this steamship was special. When the

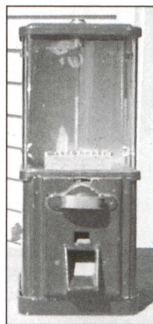
steamship sunk, its cargo holds were full of supplies and goods, in route to the many merchants located in cities along the banks of the Missouri River.

After a guided tour, where we learned historical details of the ship and its sinking, we were allowed to roam freely through the museum. The merchandise was so well preserved it was incredible. Large quantities of china, glassware, silver, tools, guns, fabric and more lined display cases. We spent an hour looking at all the well preserved antiques before moving on. Our next stop was at an antique shop just a few blocks away, the River Market Antique Mall. I didn't find any coin-op in the mall, but I struck up a conversation with one of the dealers there. He said he had a 1940s Silver King with a broken globe. We swapped business cards. He called me the week after we got back home, and sold it to me for \$35.

While we were in the downtown area, we decided to visit State Line Antique row. Unfortunately, it was Monday and all the shops were closed. Too bad, some of the shops looked promising. Then we drove to a cluster of shops in Levenworth and Weston, Northwest of Kansas City. We found a few scales and pinball machines, but not much else.

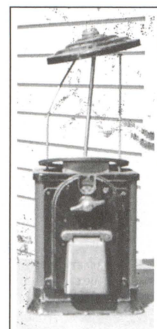


The next day we headed for the Ozarks. Old Gas Pumps and rusty Coke Machines were a common site in front of the many antique shops on our way to the Ozarks. When we got into the city, we found many huge malls, but prices in most, were high. In one shop, I picked up a 1950s Coast Basketball machine (*see photo*), in excellent condition, for \$200. The store owner said he had just picked it up at an auction. They also had a nice looking English Cigar vendor for \$800, and lots of gas station and oil collectibles. In the Ozark antique mall, we found a lot of coin-op. They had a 1930s WizBall pinball machine for \$295. Also, a crane machine, missing the bottom half, for \$395. They also had some Victor Model



V's, Oak Acorns, and a Zeno display case for \$895. Right next door at the Maine Street Mall, we found a punching bag/boxing machine for \$7,000. I picked up a Victor Halfback with an unusual turn handle for \$22 (*see photo*). We also stopped in Springfield, just north of the Ozarks, at a shop called George & Joan's Antique Mall. They were ready to close when we got there, but it was a big shop with lots of nice stuff. Common machines were expensive, but we found a Major Alwyn, in somewhat rough shape. They offered it to us for \$225, but we just didn't have the room.

On our way out of Springfield, in route to our final destination (St. Louis), we stopped at an antique shop. The outside lot looked like a junk yard, but we found coin-op machines inside. Many of the machines had been restored and were quite expensive. I picked up a 1950s Topper with a broken globe for \$30 there, (*see photo*). We stopped at many other antique shops on the drive to St. Louis, but didn't find much.



The first morning in St. Louis, we visited fellow coin-op collector Steve Fautsch. He showed us his collection of machines which was very nice. I found we had a lot in common, and our collections were quite similar. We had only one afternoon to shop in St. Louis, and my wife wanted to visit the Cherokee Antique Row shops. We were told it was in a rough area, and shouldn't go. But, she was driving, and guess where we ended up. We found that as long as you stayed on the main road, it was OK. But I stayed with the car and let my wife and son do the hunting. We picked up some Northwestern 60 and 49er globes for \$15 each. There were some really nice shops in that area. Later that afternoon we stopped at the St. Louis Arch. It was hot and quite a long walk. Security was high, and we had to pass through an X-ray machine, which destroyed several rolls of film.

The next day we headed home. On the way back to Milwaukee, we stopped in a number of shops throughout Illinois. Not too much, although my wife found a Wrigley Display Case. It wasn't for sale, but she asked to call the owner. She could have purchased it for \$200, but passed on it. I think she regrets that, as she has mentioned it several times since.

The trip wasn't our best. We did a lot of driving, visited a huge amount of antique shops, and didn't find much. Sometimes the best finds are in your own backyard, but that's another story.

*Here's another interesting story.....
you never know what you might find at a rummage sale....*

IN YOUR OWN BACKYARD

by John Carini

The first weekend in August, I received a call from someone I had previously met at a beer show. He left a message saying he found some new in-the-box hot nut machines and wanted to know if I was interested. I called him back. He told me he picked up 4 new in-the-box machines from a rummage sale. He said there were 16 more, but they weren't new, and they were missing some parts so he didn't purchase them. From his description, I thought they were common Northwestern '60s with decals that said hot nut cashews.

I offered him \$100 for all 4 machines. He said he would call me back, that he wanted to try to get the rest of the machines from the garage sale. He called me back and explained all the others were sold, and told me he wanted to keep one of the four he had

just purchased. He offered the other 3 to me for \$100. I said yes, and he drove them to our house.

When I opened the box, I was pleasantly surprised. I had never before seen this model of Northwestern Hot Nut machine (*see photo*). The machines take 50 cents, and they have nice graphics on the globes. They have holes in the side for a tray



holder or cup holder to be bolted on (*see photo*), and a built in heating unit. My best guess is they are from the late '70s or early '80s.

Curious about the machine, I decided to call a rep at Northwestern, thinking they could give me the details. I also wanted to purchase a cup holder for the machine. Unfortunately, I couldn't find anyone there familiar with this model.

Three days later, I was at a local Milwaukee auction when another one of these machines showed up. This one wasn't new. The mechanism was frozen, but the machine was clean. I bid on and won the machine for \$30. I'm pretty sure that over the next few months, several more will be showing up at local auctions, flea markets and antique shops. So talk with other antique dealers and pickers. Keep your name out there, you never know when you'll get a call.

TALES OF THE HUNT

Hosted by **Jack Freund**

I'm down to the last TALES OF THE HUNT. Please send me your tale, along with a photo or two, and we will continue with future TALES OF THE HUNT. Without YOUR story this feature will die. I'm sure we all enjoy these stories of "FINDS; but they can only be printed here for all to enjoy if YOU send in your TALE OF THE HUNT. *Send to: Jack Freund, P.O. Box 4, Springfield WI 53176.*

You also can email stories and photos to: jbgum@msn.com

Our first tale is submitted by Roger Smith of Parkville MO.

It is a tale of DECISIONS, DECISIONS, and DECISIONS

My story unfolds almost thirty years ago, when I was still in school still dating my wife. We were walking to dinner in our neighborhood on the near north side of Chicago and spotted a glass-domed object in the window of an antique shop.



It appeared to be a coin-operated vendor of some sort and piqued our curiosity. At the time, I probably had fewer than five machines in my embryonic collection, but the collecting passion was present, if unrecognized. We went in and asked the owner if we could see the object.

The machine was an ADVANCE MATCH VENDOR with a small crack at the base of the globe, a minor ding near the top, and a missing cash box. It appeared to be working and the owner was asking \$20 or \$25 for it. We thought long and hard. That was a lot for us to spend at that time, and we didn't really have a collection (or so we thought). We thanked the lady and went to dinner. Discussion about the machine occupied most of dinner and in the end we went back and bought the machine for \$15.

What changed our minds and motivated us to spend that large amount of money? We were driven by the clear vision that this machine had to be rescued from the owner (or someone similar) because, you see, she had told us, "You know, you could just drill a hole in the top and make it into a lamp."

We still proudly own this machine.

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TALES OF THE HUNT (continued)

Our last tale comes from Herb Weinfield of Northbrook IL.

This is the second "Tale" submitted by Herb. Thanks Herb.

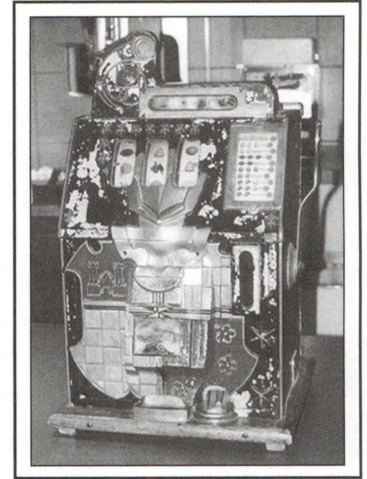
This is an unfinished tale and I'll let Herb tell you about.....

MOVIE MAGIC

My wife and I were going to the movies. As she went to pick out the seats, I went to get the popcorn. Would you believe, sitting on the counter in front of the popcorn machine was a MILLS MYSTERY slot machine (I've always called it the CASTLE FRONT). It was JUST SITTING THERE!!!

After recovering my composure I located the owner of the machine--- one of the kids selling the popcorn! It turns out the theatre was showing "The Good Thief" and he brought it in to hype the picture. Then he told me it was one of a matched set:

1 cent, 5 cent, 10 cent and 25 cent play.



My next question was "Do you want to sell these machines"? Of course he didn't want to, as they were part of an estate, he had the rest of the family to consider, etc, etc. Not only that, but he wouldn't even give me his name or phone number.!!

I gave him one of my cards, dangled enough money in front of him that I thought would impress a \$7.00 an hour kid and we'll see if anything happens. Stay tuned for what could be a real find. Don't ask me what the movie was about; I just couldn't get into it.

I came back later and took this picture. Because I am an eternal optimist I now await a phone call and a happy ending, just like in the movies.

-- NEWS FLASH --

NOT ONCE, NOT TWICE, BUT THREE TIMES!

Yes, you guessed it! C.O.C.A. members are all invited back to Jasper Sanfilippo's for Friday nights meeting. If you have been there already, then nothing more needs to be said. If you haven't, then cancel all other plans and make it a priority to attend.

No where else will you see more music machines, arcade pieces and coin-op.

However, due to a prior engagement the carousel will not be opened for this event.

A bus will be available to transport members for \$5.00 each, round trip. A limited supply of seats are available. First come, first serve. Reservations with payment can be made to Paul Hindin or paid at the C.O.C.A. Booth. FIRST COME, FIRST SERVE. 45 spots available.

EXTRA, EXTRA, READ ALL ABOUT IT!

Next Issue - Spring 2004

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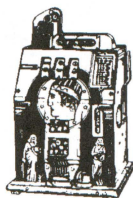
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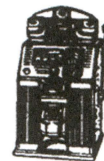
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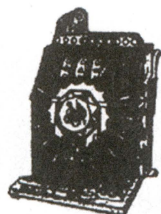
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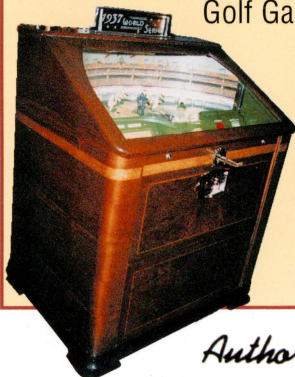
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